

translation.

Personal.

March 30, 1955.

Dear Mr. Minister,

I will cite excerpts from a letter by my friends (sent from Sweden):

"What has happened to Voice of America broadcasts? Are they going through a crisis? They are unbearably poor and psychically not balanced. In the past year such was not the case. These days I had a conversation with Latvian sailors from Latvia. A ship docked. It also went to Stockholm. Some of the people I know quite well from last summer when Swedish ports were visited by "Kandava" "Auseklis" and "Rainis". If we want to believe what the soldiers have to say about VOA meaning in Latvia then their words ought to be repeated: "chatterbox water". Even political officer on the ship permits these days to listen to these broadcasts. Such chatter is harmless and nobody in Latvia is said to have belief in it. This is approximately how it sounded.

During the first years everybody is supposed to have listened with trembling hearts. Some still listen but disenchantment is supposed to be great.

Naturally what concerns the purely political aspects blame for all VOA broadcasts rests with the political leadership in the USA resp. in the stand taken by the USA against oppressed nations.

This is a quackery!

- A few days ago our people called upon the executives of the Swedish Red Cross, who left for Moscow on March 20 in connection with Russian desire to join the International Red Cross. Prior to their departure the Swedes arranged a lengthy meeting with us. We introduced latest and former data on slave labor camps in the USSR, about the fate of Latvian deportees, a request for a humanitarian help action - parcels, letter exchange, information on deportees etc. The executives of the Swedish Red Cross clearly understand these problems. The above mentioned will be introduced in Moscow as Swedish proposals. This we have to understand. The Swedish delegation will also ask for a permit to visit the Baltic States during their 10 day stay in the USSR. If this permission will be refused, the press will again have something to write about.

(I placed at their disposal all data in my possession - V.H.)

The Swedes promised to give us detailed information upon their return.

- The balloon action is very actual. Spring is near. Ships also enter and leave Riga. There are all kinds of possibilities. I no more believe that what concerns this action you will be able to help. There can not be loud talk about this action. It is better to have less people know about it. While our hosts cover up this action it is fine but as soon as respective individuals will start mixing into it - nothing will be possible any more. Therefore we have to take advantage of the present favorable situation."

This is approximately all. For your information it should be enough. I should think that you ought to exercise some pressure on the VOA. If I write something Freivalds feels offended. But we also have to consider the voice of the people. There are no other news in Germany. At present we are talking about various conferences and meetings. Time flies. Mr. Masens has not been heard from. As far as I know he is at present in Paris. - What concerns my departure there have been no new developments. Never mind.

With heartiest Easter greetings,

yours,

( signed: V. Hazners )

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